



The County Seat

News from the Leesburg District

November 2002

From Mark Herring
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Welcome! *The County Seat: News from the Leesburg District* is an electronic newsletter to update you on recent events related to the Loudoun County Government and the actions of the Board of Supervisors, especially as they affect residents in the Leesburg District. I am hopeful *The County Seat* will help you stay informed about your County government and improve communications with me as your elected representative on the Board. I invite you to read the updates in this issue and welcome your comments and opinions.

Mark Herring

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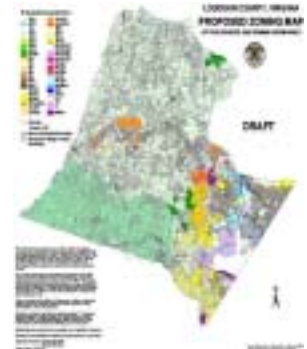
Board Schedules Public Hearing on Re-mapping and Zoning Ordinance Revision

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Saturday, November 2nd, and Wednesday, November 6th, on the proposed countywide re-mapping and related draft zoning ordinance amendments. The public hearings will be held in the Board Room of the County Government Center, 1 Harrison Street, SE in Leesburg. The November 2nd public hearing will begin at 9:00 am, while the sessions on November 6th will begin at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to speak at the hearings, please call the Board of Supervisors Office at 703-777-0204, to be placed on the list to voice your comments. Individuals and groups will have three minutes to make their comments. You can also tape your comments in the Lovettsville Room during the public hearings or submit comments in writing. The deadline for signing up to speak at the November 6th evening meeting will be on November 6th at noon.

The Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed re-mapping and zoning ordinance revisions that are necessary to implement the Revised Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the Board in 2001. The Commission has now forwarded its recommendations to the Board.

More information about this project is available online at <http://www.loudoun.gov/compplan/remap.htm>. Questions about the project may be directed to the Zoning Hotline at 703-777-0103 or by e-mail to zoningupdate@loudoun.gov.



General and Special Election On November 5th

On November 5, 2002, voters in Loudoun County will go to the polls for a General Election and Special Election. For more information about what will appear on the ballot, please go to <http://www.co.loudoun.va.us/general/ballot.htm>. That web page also contains links to pages that list polling places and show a map of the Loudoun County Election Districts.

Annexation Update

The County's delegation to the Leesburg Annexation Negotiation Team took formal action on October 7th in response to Councilman Zoldos's proposal for a boundary line adjustment around the area of the Leesburg Airport. The County has endorsed the following:

- The County will pursue discussions with the Town regarding expanding corporate limits within the context of a Voluntary Settlement of Annexation.
- A thorough planning process be used to achieve this settlement agreement. Among the provisions to be included as a part of this settlement agreement would be:
 - Uses and densities for the areas to be annexed.
 - Public facility sites for the area to be annexed.
 - Coordination of transportation improvements.
 - Provision for the County government property, which would implement a plan of development for the park and other proposed uses.
 - A timing strategy for the annexation tied to a level of buildout.
- The area to be considered for the annexation discussion will include a portion of the Hunter-Dowdy parcel northeast of the W & OD Trail; the Siemens parcel; the County owned properties; and the Walde tract.
- An open, public process should be agreed upon between the Town of Leesburg and the County as a part of the discussions about the annexation.

The Board has expressed its strong desire to work with the Town within the context of a Voluntary Settlement of Annexation and through a thorough planning process that includes the public. The Board made this proposal contingent upon the Town's rejecting the annexation petition(s) currently before the Commission on Local Government, and Chairman York formally communicated this position to Mayor Umstattd on October 15th.

Courtland Farm Development

Some of you may have read about the proposed Courtland Farm Development, which was approved by a prior Board of Supervisors in 1995. The concern that many citizens have expressed is that the development is threatening the setting around historic Oatlands and Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. Courtland Farm Development is an 800 acre property located along the east side of Route 15 south, adjacent to Oatlands and the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

While the development is not in the Leesburg District, I believe most citizens in the Leesburg area support efforts to preserve as much of the natural beauty and rural character surrounding Leesburg as much as possible. Consistent with that desire to preserve open space where feasible, I have worked to improve the quality and sensitivity of this development, as well as to put forward a plan to support a public/private partnership to make a conservation purchase of the land.

This is a unique piece of property with environmental and cultural features that fit into a large conservation effort and plan that include Banshee Reeks and historic Oatlands. Converting this property from its current development potential into the larger conservation effort is a financial challenge, but one worth fighting to overcome.

The Board's Land Use Committee has accepted my recommendation that the Board of Supervisors encourage acquisition through a private/public venture. The county government could provide in-kind services, such as mapping, grant writing and legal assistance. Under this option the county could separately consider contributing public funds to support the purchase at a later date if deemed appropriate. The matter now goes to the full Board for action on November 4th.

Leesburg Halloween Parade



The Leesburg Halloween Parade is an annual event which has been sponsored by the Leesburg Kiwanis Club since 1955. The Parade lines up at 5pm at Ida Lee Park and the procession begins at 6pm down King Street, through historic downtown Leesburg, and ends at the Safeway at Catoctin Circle. I hope to see you there and I wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program Launches Seventh Year



The Community Holiday Coalition's "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program is gearing up for its seventh annual Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

The program involves both a Thanksgiving Program and Christmas Program that bring together people from all walks of life: those that need assistance and those that want to help. Each year nearly 1,000 volunteers and donors come together to "Brighten up the Holidays" for their friends and neighbors. This year they are expected to help more than a thousand Loudoun families in need, including 1800 children

The programs are supported by the community through churches, schools, businesses, clubs, civic organizations, youth groups and caring individuals. They make it possible to bring the "magic" of the holiday season to many in our community.

Families are determined eligible by income and can find applications at Loudoun County Social Services, Loudoun Interfaith Relief and the Good Shepherd Thrift Store. If you would like to participate as volunteers or donors please call the Holiday Hotline at 703-771-5718 for more information or visit their website at www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday.

Leesburg Area Elementary Schools Boundary Changes Update

Although determining school attendance boundaries is a matter for the School Board and not the Board of Supervisors, I thought you might appreciate an update on the Leesburg area elementary school boundaries discussion.

The Loudoun County Public Schools planning staff held community input meetings on October 15th and October 23rd at Harper Park Middle School to discuss the upcoming boundary changes for the Leesburg area Elementary Schools. The boundary changes come as a result of the scheduled opening of Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School for the 2003-2004 school year. The meetings were well attended and a wealth of public comment was voiced. The schools possibly affected by the boundary changes are Ball's Bluff, Catoctin, Cool Spring, Evergreen Mill, John W. Tolbert, Jr, Leesburg and Lucketts Elementary Schools.

LCPS staff presented 7 different boundary scenarios, while a local resident informally submitted his own copies to meeting attendees at the meeting on October 23rd. All eight of these scenarios are posted on the LCPS website at <http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/planning/>. All other boundary scenarios must have been submitted by October 28th, so additional scenarios may have been posted on the website as of this writing.



On Tuesday, November 12th, the planning staff recommendation will be presented to the school board. This will take place at the North Street Administration Building at 6:30pm and the public is permitted to attend this presentation. A School Board Public Hearing will follow on November 20th at John Tolbert Elementary School at 6:30pm and the Adoption of the Attendance Boundary for the schools will happen on December 10th at 6:30pm at the North Street Administration Building.

I would like to hear from you! For opinion or comment, please contact:

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